Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 15:

A2

Rotor 40 and input shaft 22 are coupled together via disk 49. Rotor 40 is coupled with disk 49 such that rotor 40 is generally concentric about axis of rotation 38.

Please substitute the following paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 18:

A3

The loaded fiber suspension then flows from gas ring 48 through rotor and stator assembly 16. More particularly, the fiber suspension flows through gap 44, as well as the spaces between adjacent teeth 46 of rotor 40 and stator 42. Rotor and stator assembly 16 distributes the calcium carbonate crystals in the fiber suspension. The fiber suspension has a pulp consistency of between approximately 0.1% and 50% when passing through rotor and stator assembly 16, and preferably has a pulp consistency of between approximately 2.5% and 35%. The fiber suspension, loaded with calcium carbonate crystals on and in the individual fibers within the fiber suspension, is discharged through accept outlet 30 to atmospheric pressure for further processing, such as to a machine or chest.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as shown in the Request for Approval of Drawing Changes attached herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims 1, 9, 12 and 19 for original claims 1, 9, 12 and 19:

A4

1. (Amended) An apparatus for loading fibers in a fiber suspension with calcium